

Description of Hiking Trails

General conditions: Stream terraces and occasional flooding tend to make our trails wet, muddy and slippery. Some trail sections are under construction to improve drainage and control soil erosion. Please use caution and stay on trails.

Harrison Trace Trail: EASY — 2.5 mile loop via Duck Pond.This is an asphalt surface trail intended for walkers, bicyclists, and joggers. The trail begins at the Delaware Lake Picnic Area. After passing Delaware Lake, the trail follows the rolling upland above Fall Creek. Although the trail is graded and paved, it is not flat. Much of the trail is tree covered and wildflowers grow next to the walking surface all season long. This is the easiest route to Duck Pond.

Fall Creek Trail: MODERATE — 1.1 miles to Duck Pond. Start this trail at the northeast corner of the Delaware Lake Picnic Area. The trail follows the lowlands along Fall Creek and then heads uphill as it nears Duck Pond. Overall distance can be shortened or varied by taking one of the three cut-off trails that connect to the Harrison Trace Trail. Excellent for birding, fishing access, wildflower and tree identification.

Camp Creek Trail: MODERATE — 1.0 mile to Duck Pond. Pick up this trail at the northeast side of Delaware Lake where it branches off from the Harrison Trace Trail. The trail follows a quiet woodland ravine and then climbs to the upland forest. This is the choice for the earliest spring flowers, and a wide variety of tree species.

Lawrence Creek Trail: MODERATE — 2 mile loop. Begin this trail at either the Lawrence Creek Trailhead or the WalnutTrailhead parking area on the west side of the park. The trail winds through upland woods and ravines. It is an excellent choice for fall color. Northern sections of the trail tend to remain wet all summer, providing a wonderful wildflower show.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BIKING — Allowed only on paved park roads and the Harrison Trace Trail. Bicycles are not allowed on gravel or dirt hiking tails or the golf course.

FISHING — A state license is required and is available at the park office or local stores. Check park signs and bulleting boards for special regulations.

PICNIC AREAS — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields are provided throughout the park. Large picnic shelters may be reserved through the Central Reservation System. There is no camping at the park.

HORSE TRAIL RIDES — Guided rentals are available during the operating season from April through October. For more information regarding operating hours, lessons, hayrides and special event rides call 317-541-1866 during the season.

WINTER ACTIVITIES — With proper snow conditions, the sledding hill is open until dusk and cross-country skiing is allowed on park trails. Peaceful woodland walks and winter birding await the warmly dressed adventurer!

INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES — Park visitors of all ages are invited to experience the natural and cultural history of the park through programs presented by park interpreters and exhibits at the Nature History Center. Program schedules are available on the website at www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/ or call 317-591-0122. Open all year.

NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION CENTER — This state wide DNR facility specializes in curriculum-based teacher training programs such as Project WILD, Project WET, PLT and volunteer based Hoosier Riverwatch and Adopt-A-River programs. For more information visit www.IN.gov/dnr/nrec or call 317-562-1338.

Park Hours:

Regular Season: April - October — 7:00 am - Dusk*
Off Season: November - March — 8:00 am - Dusk*

*For dusk closing hours check the posting at the front gate or call 317-591-0904. Gates close promptly.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park . Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Overnight camping is not allowed in the park.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- You are in a day use park. Help us keep it clean. Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy and take all your trash with you when you leave the park.
- Motorists must observe speed limits as posted. Park in designated areas only. Roadside parking is not allowed. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on hiking trails, the Harrison Trace trail, or through the bicycle/pedestrian entrance on Boy Scout Road. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Pull off roads while observing wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- No mountain biking is allowed in the park.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)
www.camp.IN.gov



THE GARRISON RESTAURANT
... at the gateway to Fort Harrison State Park
Dining • Lodging • Conferences

- full-service dining
- banquet seating for 300
- 2 breakout rooms

- Harrison House - 7 Suites
- Officer's Homes - 3, 2 story, 3 bedrooms -sleeps 10

Information toll free: 1-877-937-3678
Reservations: **1-877-lodges1**
(1-877-563-4371)
Online: www.indianainns.com

THE FORT GOLF COURSE

- 18 hole golf course
- driving range

For Reservation & Information
Call: 317-543-9597

FOR MORE PARK INFORMATION

Write: Fort Harrison State Park
5753 Glenn Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
Call: 317-591-0904

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.IN.gov/dnr

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4020.

INDIANA

FORT HARRISON STATE PARK

Landscape and history blend in a unique setting in northeast Indianapolis at Fort Harrison State Park. Located at Post Road and 59th Street, the 1700-acre park features walking and jogging trails, picnic sites, fishing access to Fall Creek and two national historic districts.

Visit the Nature History Center to view exhibits and experience the preserved Citizen's Military Training Camp, CCC Headquarters, and World War II prisoner of war camp. Springtime is a great season to enjoy woodland wildflowers, watch for warblers migrating north or listen for the elusive Pileated woodpecker. The sledding hill and fitness walking are great winter activities.

Glacial advances into Central Indiana left fertile ground colonized by lichens, mosses, and wildflowers. Over time a rich soil supported a hardwood forest composed of beech, maple, sycamore, and ash. Wildlife including elk, bison, river otter, black bear, passenger pigeon and bass filled the drainages of the Fall Creek Valley.

Native American peoples found their way into this region at least 8000 years ago and developed lifeways that we celebrate today. Euro-American settlers moved from Kentucky and Ohio, establishing the first homesteads in the 1820's. They cleared the woodlands to make way for an agricultural economy.

The creation of the military post came about due to the changing face of the state and nation. During the Civil War, the Indianapolis Arsenal supplied munitions to federal troops. Located near the State House from 1861 to1865, the War Department later moved the arsenal east of downtown to Woodruff Place. By 1901 as the city grew even larger, the War Department planned to close the arsenal entirely.

Many community members felt strongly that some military presence should remain in the city to honor the tradition the arsenal played in ending slavery and maintaining the Union. Lt. Colonel Russell Harrison, son of deceased President Benjamin Harrison, suggested naming any remaining military facility in honor of his father.

On June 28, 1904 the War Department issued General Order No. 117 officially announcing the purchase of land for "military purposes ... about nine miles northeasterly from Indianapolis." In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated Fort Benjamin Harrison in honor of the 23rd President and Indianapolis resident.

On a national scale, the fort represented the first effort to create a "national " army out of a collection of state militias. The post served multiple roles as troop reception center, classroom, and soldier support facility during all major military conflicts from WWI to Gulf War I. Today, Fort Harrison State Park continues to preserve the greenspace that the Army kept out of development from 1903 - 1996. Today, you can experience forests and meadows, wildlife, and revealing glimpses into our past.